



To:

Lloyd Jordan, Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Jordan,

I am writing on behalf of the 16th Street Heights Civic Association located in the northern part of 16th Street Heights. The association has pass a membership motion to oppose the application of the Buddhist Congregational Church of America for a special exception from the SSH-1 Overlay requirements (Application# 18967).

The 16th Street Heights Civic Association opposes the special exception to the SSH-1 Overlay because:

- 1) The upper 16th Street Heights Civic Association and neighbors drafted the SSH-1 Overlay to prevent churches from building in our neighborhood. We would like for the Zoning Commission to honor the SSH-1 Overlay.
- 2) Multiple neighbors have complained of the church behavior with the neighbors in regards to parking in their personal property.
- 3) There is not a lot of parking around the church due to three (3) of the streets not allowing any parking at anytime. The church membership continues to block alley's, park in private properties, and cause traffic. An expansion of the church will bring additional members that will hurt the neighborhood.

We urge the board to deny the requested exception to the SSH-1 Overlay. Our neighborhood pleaded the Council and Zoning Commission to introduce the SSH-1 Overlay over 20 years ago to avoid churches from changing our uniformed neighborhood. Attached are emails from surrounding neighbors who oppose the expansion.

Sincerely,

Pedro Rubio
President
16th Street Heights Civic Association
www.dcsshca.com
Email: prubio14@gmail.com
Cell: 202-386-0194



Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

Jay Hone <jayhone@yahoo.com>

Sat, May 30, 2015 at 3:26 PM

Reply-To: Jay Hone <jayhone@yahoo.com>

To: "prubio.ii@gmail.com" <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Cc: "nrheath@gmail.com" <nrheath@gmail.com>, "jayhone@yahoo.com" <jayhone@yahoo.com>

I, too, am very opposed to the expansion of the Buddhist Church at 5401 16th St, NW.

Please include both Neill & I in any future meetings/announcements that involve such expansions.

Thank you very much for the update.

Jay Hone 1428 Longfellow St, NW

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Neill Heath** <nrheath@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, May 30, 2015 at 2:19 PM

Subject: Re: Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

To: Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Dear Pedro,

I very much oppose the expansion of the Buddhist Church at 5401 16th St. When services or events are held there and members are parking or dropping people off, traffic along 16th St. slows to a crawl or dangerously backs up to the intersection with Colorado Ave. I don't think churches in the 16th Street corridor should be allowed to expand unless adequate off street parking is also planned for on church property.

Sincerely,,

Neill Heath

1400 blk of Longfellow St. NW

On Sat, May 30, 2015 at 1:54 PM, Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Neighbors,

At our April meeting we passed a motion to oppose an expansion of the Buddhist Church located at 5401 16th St NW. Many neighbors raised their concern about members of the church parking or blocking their private property.

I need your help! I learned in politics that in order to make change, you have to show numbers.

The Zoning Board is having a hearing in June, and I am writing a letter of opposition on behalf of the 16th Street Heights Civic Association. If you would like to help, please send me an email saying you oppose the expansion of the church and why.

Enjoy your weekend and see you June 9th!

Pedro Rubio
President, SSHCA



Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

Marjorie Collins <maocollins3@gmail.com>

Sat, May 30, 2015 at 5:21 PM

To: Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Then, please let my opposition be expressed...we certainly fought hard and long for that overlay and I would hate to see it was for naught.

[Quoted text hidden]



Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

twoharolds@aol.com <twoharolds@aol.com>

Sun, May 31, 2015 at 2:55 PM

To: prubio.ii@gmail.com

We at 5515-16th St. NW definitely oppose the expansion of the Buddhist Church at 5401 16th St. NW because of the already serious traffic problem they cause. Many of our neighbors complain of blocked alleys, garages and unable to have space for company parking at our homes. Most of the members live in Virginia and we know this because we have checked the license plates and they extend for blocks when there is a service. Just today they are using a loud speaker and it is heard for blocks. Any expansion will only make it more unbearable. If they need more space they should build in Virginia where they live.

Dr. Harold J. Herman
Harold F. Mays, Jr.

-----Original Message-----

From: Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

To: Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]



Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

Lenore Sek <lsek@earthlink.net>

Sat, May 30, 2015 at 2:42 PM

To: Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Pedro,

I think the interest of the SSHCA is broader than church members blocking the property of a few individuals. I think it should be whether or not special exceptions to the Overlay should be granted and under what conditions. The reason for the Overlay was to reduce the growth of non-residential properties in the area and to maintain a balance with residential use. Whatever action the Association takes, it might set a precedent for future cases. What if another church wants to expand? How many church expansions would be OK before it's too much? Are some expansions OK but others not? What should be the position of the Association on the Overlay in general?

Apart from my personal interest in this case and speaking as an SSHCA member, I have lived in my house for 25 years and have strongly supported restrictions on non-residential growth. I think it's important to support homeownership.

Thanks for all your time on this matter.

Lenore

P.S. The membership check I wrote at the April meeting has not been deposited yet.

[Quoted text hidden]



Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

F Hoffman <fhoffman1@verizon.net>
To: Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Kishter <skishter@verizon.net>

Sat, May 30, 2015 at 2:14 PM

Pedro:

As residents of the neighborhood, Dr. Steven Kishter and Dr. Freddie Ann Hoffman oppose the expansion of the Buddhist Church located at 5401 16th St, NW, 20011.

Regards,

Freddie Ann Hoffman, MD

Steven R Kishter, MD DDS

5611 16th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20011-6809 USA

T: 202.545.6843 F: 202.545.6844

From: Pedro Rubio [<mailto:prubio.ii@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2015 1:54 PM

To: Pedro Rubio

Subject: Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

[Quoted text hidden]



Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

Opposition to the application to the expansion of the Buddhist Church

Neill Heath <nrheath@gmail.com>

Sat, May 30, 2015 at 2:19 PM

To: Pedro Rubio <prubio.ii@gmail.com>

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Sincerely,,

Neill Heath
1400 blk of Longfellow St. NW

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